ABB drive systems boost production at Canada's Red Chris gold and copper mine

Zurich, Switzerland, June 9, 2015: Copper concentrate throughput at Imperial Metal's greenfield project exceeds projections after installation of ABB's reliable low-speed dual pinion ring-geared mill drive solution

ABB, the leading power and automation technology group, has successfully installed and commissioned two low-speed dual pinion ring-geared mill drive systems (RMDs) at the Red Chris gold and copper mine in northwestern Canada to optimize the project's grinding process and boost ore throughput.

ABB's drive system is the most-mechanically friendly available and offers high availability as well as process reliability for the new open-pit mine owned and operated by Vancouver, B.C.-based Imperial Metals.

Imperial chose ABB to supply a reliable and robust drive solution for its Red Chris project, which demanded a system that could accommodate a planned milling rate of 30,000 metric tons per day over the mine's expected lifetime of 28 years. Commissioning began in November 2014 and was successfully completed, with both RMD systems operating at 100 percent load in February 2015.

"We are very pleased with ABB's commitment to complete the project execution and final commissioning of the equipment," said Tim Fisch, general manager at Red Chris. "We have been able to produce our first copper concentrate with a much higher throughput rate than originally planned at this point of the startup thanks to the excellent ABB project and commissioning team from Canada and Switzerland."

The Red Chris mine is located 80 kilometers south of Dease Lake in northwest British Columbia, on territory traditionally occupied by the Tahltan First Nations people who make up a large portion of the workers at the mine.

ABB's complete scope of supply included two dual pinion low-speed mill drive systems for a 34-foot 2 x 5.2 MW semiautogenous (SAG) mill and a 24-foot 2 x 7 MW ball mill, engineering and commissioning. The drive systems are comprised of transformers, ACS 6000 MV frequency converters, synchronous motors, advanced mill control, operations and maintenance features inherent to the ABB RMD solution.

Features include variable-speed operation, real time frozen charge protection, frozen charge remover function, controlled roll-back and positioning without a need for an additional inching drive. ABB also delivered the programmable logic controller (PLC) to control the mill auxiliaries.

"ABB's RMD solution is currently in operation with more than 55 mills worldwide, attesting to the reliability of this grinding technology," said Peter Terwiesch, president of ABB's Process Automation division. "We are delighted that Imperial Metals chose to partner with ABB to supply this solution for its Red Chris greenfield project."

Imperial Metals is an exploration and mining company with expertise and focus on base and precious metals. The majority of the company's mining projects are based in British Columbia, in addition to one site in Nevada, USA.

Watch our RMD animation here: http://youtu.be/WNXul2kFoYI

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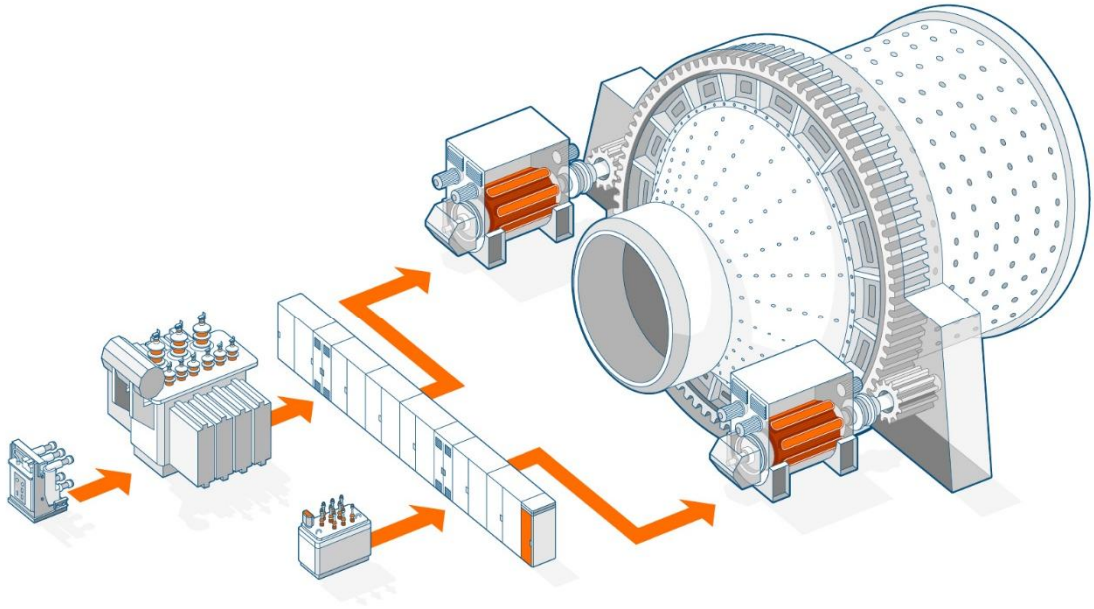

ABB's ring-geared mill drive system

For help with any technical terms in this release, please go to: www.abb.com/glossary

About ABB

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility, industry, and transport and infrastructure customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in roughly 100 countries and employs about 140,000 people.

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